

# Okaloosa County News Release

8/9/2012; Kathy Newby, 850.651.7515, [knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us](mailto:knewby@co.okaloosa.fl.us)

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**Media Notes – Winners & photos attached; Videos on YouTube at CountyOkaloosa**

## **Junior Lifeguards Compete at Home – Capture Gold at USLA Competition**

Beach Safety Division of Public Safety Hosted USLA Championships on Okaloosa Island this year. Junior Lifeguards from Destin, Okaloosa & South Walton (Emerald Coast Chapter) medaled in every event and walked away with 10 regional championships. Junior Lifeguards compete in **Beach Run, Run/Swim/Run, Beach Flags, Surf Swim, Swim Relay, Paddleboard and Ironman categories**, and captured: **10 Gold, 43 Silver, 28 Bronze**

**Beach Safety Chief Tracey Vause** expressed how proud we are of our Emerald Coast Juniors: “Speaking for Gary Wise of South Walton Beach Safety and Joe D’Agostino of Destin Beach Safety, we could not be more proud of what was accomplished by our junior lifeguards and we deeply appreciate all of the community support for these important programs.”

“The annual USLA Championships attracts USLA lifesaving agencies from across the southeast in a demonstration of the lifesaving skills that are used every day on our beaches,” stated USLA President Gerry Falconer. “From the Professional Lifeguards to the Junior Lifeguards, and their parents, the impression of the beaches of Okaloosa County was one that left a positive impression for all.”

About **200 professional lifeguards** from 14 different agencies, and **over 250 junior lifeguards** plus their parents and chaperones. Total draw between **500 and 750 people over the three day tournament.**

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